

a guide to
**WINTER
SOWING**

What is Winter Sowing?

A method of propagation used through the winter months where seeds are sown into protective vented containers and placed outdoors.

Why do it?

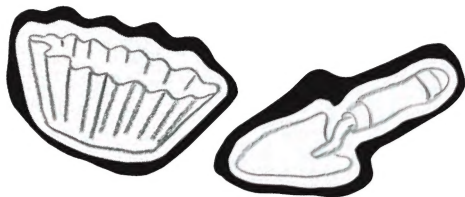


- Replicates the natural process of seeds spending time in the ground during winter. Many native plants need this!
- Eliminates the need to harden off seedlings
- Takes less watering :-)



Gather materials

- Bucket or container for mixing soil and water
- Plant tags and a marker
- Coffee filters or newspaper
- Something to scoop soil with
- Scissors
- Duct tape
- Something to poke holes with (drill, screwdriver, etc.)



Choose a container

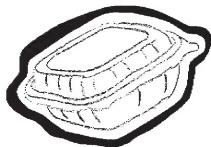
Dig into your recycling bin and get creative! Anything that can hold soil and provide a protective vented environment will work.

- Milk jugs
- 2 liter bottles
- Takeout or other food containers



Prep container

- Wash & dry, discard caps
- Cut jug in half, leaving handle attached
- Make about 6 half-inch holes in bottom of jug



Sow seeds

- Layer newspaper on bottom
- Pack 3-4 inches of wet soil in the bottom
- Sow seeds according to packet instructions
- Duct tape jug back together
- Label with date and seed type
- Set jugs in a sunny spot, snow and rain will enter, creating condensation. Water if dry.

Protect sprouts from late frost by covering with blankets.

Open the jugs in the spring, and transfer plants to your garden after your zone's frost date.

Sow in December, January and February

Native wildflowers, grasses, trees

- Milkweed • Ironweed
- Joe pye weed • Columbine
- Butterfly weed • Coneflower

Cold weather vegetables

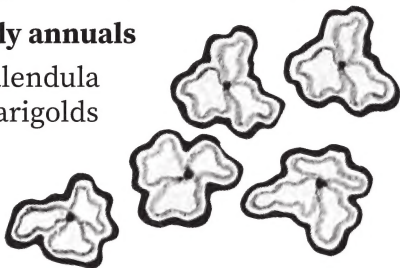
- Spinach • Kale • Brussel sprouts

Herbs

- Thyme • Oregano • Parsley

Hardy annuals

- Calendula
- Marigolds



Plants you would normally direct sow in early summer can be started in late March and April using this method.

Tender annuals

- Cosmo • Zinnia • Marigold
- Tithonia • Nasturtium • Verbena
- Coleus • Impatiens • Begonia

Vegetables & Herbs

- Bok choy • Broccoli • Snow peas
- Lettuce • Tomatoes • Peppers
- Eggplant • Pumpkin • Squash

Herbs

- Basil • Cilantro • Rosemary



